

Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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P 062301Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA ROUTINE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105976

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS:CASC, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 2412; B) JAKARTA 4935; C) STATE

101914 (ALL NOTAL);

1. WE CONTINUE TO BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AND OTHER CAUCASIANS (INCLUDING AN AID OFFICER AND TWO CANADIANS) CAPTURED MARCH 10 BY COMMUNIST FORCES AT BAN ME THUOT, SOUTH VIETNAM. THERE WAS A NEWS REPORT APRIL 29 (UPI) THAT THE GROUP HAD BEEN RELEASED AND BROUGHT TO SAIGON AND WERE BEING EVACUATED, BUT THIS IS NOT SO. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE GROUP CONTINUES TO BE HELD AT A PRISON CAMP AT DUC CO, IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS EAST OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER, WHERE OVER 10,000 VIETNAMESE PRISONERS ARE ALSO DETAINED.

2. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION WAS PASSED BY CANADIAN OFFICIALS TO CMA OFFICIALS IN MALAYSIA SUGGESTING THAT THE MISSIONARIES ARE WELL AND CARRYING ON THEIR MISSIONARY WORK IN THE
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CAMP, THE REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED INDICATE THE GROUP MUST

BE REGARDED AS PRISONERS. OUR MOST RECENT INFORMATION DATES BACK TO EARLY APRIL, AT WHICH TIME THE CAPTIVES APPEARED TO BE IN "GOOD CONDITION" ALTHOUGH AT LEAST SOME OF THEM HAD BEEN "BEATEN UP A LITTLE."

3. IN ADDITION TO OUR CONTINUING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, WE

UNDERSTAND THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS AND FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE CAPTIVES HAVE INTERVENED DIRECTLY WITH THE PARIS AND GENEVA OFFICES OF THE NEW AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM ASKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAPTIVES AND THEIR EARLY RELEASE.

4. FOR KUALA LUMPUR: SUGGEST YOU CONTACT CANADIAN EMBASSY TO COMPARE NOTES ON INFO THEY PASSED TO CMA REP IN DANANG. WE ARE REPEATING REF B TO YOU FYI.

5. FOR JAKARTA: AT YOUR DISCRETION SUGGEST YOU CHECK WITH GOI FOR ANY FURTHER INFO THAT MAY HAVE EMERGED FROM DEBRIEF.
KISSINGER

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